

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Candidates for school board explain positions

Daily Press questionnaire puts them on the record



Emily Bloomfield

1. The budget for Santa Monica and Malibu schools is short millions of dollars and funding from the state for education appears to be bleak. Locally, how can school district officials be more fiscally responsible given that funding

will continue to fall short of students' needs?

Fiscal responsibility means understanding where and how revenue comes to the district and ensuring that it is budgeted for and

See BLOOMFIELD, page 4



Julia Brownley

1. The budget for Santa Monica and Malibu schools is short millions of dollars and funding from the state for education appears to be bleak. Locally, how can school district officials be more fiscally responsible given that funding

will continue to fall short of students' needs?

I believe we have been fiscally responsible. As fiscal stewards, we must strive for efficiency and maximization of our precious resources

See BROWNLEY, page 4



Ann Cochran

1. The budget for Santa Monica and Malibu schools is short millions of dollars and funding from the state for education appears to be bleak. Locally, how can school district officials be more fiscally responsible given that funding

will continue to fall short of students' needs?

I think that Measure EE is one way that district officials are showing responsibility and other ways are continuing with the partnerships,

See COCHRAN, page 8



Oscar de la Torre

1. The budget for Santa Monica and Malibu schools is short millions of dollars and funding from the state for education appears to be bleak. Locally, how can school district officials be more fiscally responsible given that funding

will continue to fall short of students' needs?

If we pass Measure EE we will not have to experience a funding shortfall. Within the language of Measure EE there are various actions that must be put in place to

See DE LA TORRE, page 8



Brenda Gottfried

1. The budget for Santa Monica and Malibu schools is short millions of dollars and funding from the state for education appears to be bleak. Locally, how can school district officials be more fiscally responsible given that funding

will continue to fall short of students' needs?

The school district has already taken steps to greater fiscal responsibility by creating a Financial Oversight Committee composed of community leaders. This commit-

See GOTTFRIED, page 9



Sean McCloud

1. The budget for Santa Monica and Malibu schools is short millions of dollars and funding from the state for education appears to be bleak. Locally, how can school district officials be more fiscally responsible given that funding

will continue to fall short of students' needs?

During a budget crisis, organizations need to decrease spending and increase funding. As a school board member, I would first want

See MCLOUD, page 9



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica firefighters retrieve a woman's body from the bluffs below Ocean Avenue on Tuesday evening.

Woman's body found near Palisades Park

By Daily Press staff

A woman was found dead Tuesday on the bluffs near Palisades Park.

At about 12:30 p.m., Santa Monica police received a 9-1-1 call from a passerby who noticed the woman. She was found 20 to 30 feet below the park near Idaho and Ocean avenues on a small shelf surrounded by rugged terrain.

It is not known how long the woman, who was in her 20s or 30s, had been dead. However, police said the body had not started decomposing.

The woman, whose identity has not been released, may have been

homeless.

Los Angeles County Coroners arrived on scene at about 4:30 p.m. Unable to retrieve the body in the rugged terrain, the Santa Monica Fire Department was called. Firefighters lifted the body out of the area on a stretcher about 6 p.m.

Police are investigating the incident and awaiting the autopsy report from the coroner's office to determine if there was foul play.

"We have no indication that it was a murder," said SMPD spokesman Lt. Frank Fabrega. "There are no obvious signs."

Jury deciding fate of man who murdered his father

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A jury began deliberations Tuesday on whether a Santa Monica man planned to bludgeon his father to death or whether he acted in self-defense.

Albert Victor White, 45, is accused of first-degree murder for allegedly striking his 77-year-old father on the head more than eight times with a five-pound barbell on Feb. 5 in an apartment they shared on 21st Street.

A trial lawyer for White and the state's prosecution made their closing arguments Tuesday — wrapping up the two week jury trial held before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge William C. Ryan at the Airport Courthouse.

Attorney Jack Alex said White acted in self-defense after his father, Pranas "Frank" Brazinskas, threatened him with a loaded semi-auto-

See JURY, page 3

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

Father's violent past an issue in son's murder trial

JURY, from page 1

matic pistol.

The day before Brazinkas was killed, White told his father he was leaving to live with his wife, a U.S. State Department attaché based in Malaysia. As White packed his suitcases, Alex said the pair got into a fight because the father wanted him to stay and take care of him. When Brazinkas knew he had lost the argument, he pulled out the gun, Alex said.

Throughout the trial Alex focused on the father's violent and bloody past to illustrate that when Brazinkas threatened White, his son had no choice but to defend himself as best he could.

"If you knew all that stuff you would be a little more scared if he pointed a loaded gun at you," Alex said.

But Deputy District Attorney Alyson Messenger said White acted with premeditation so that he would no longer be burdened with the constant task of caring for his father and could join his wife.

Messenger put "blood splatter" experts on the stand, who testified that a spray of Brazinkas' blood on a wall near where his body was found indicated he had been laying in bed propped up with pillows when he was fatally bludgeoned.

White had waited nearly two hours after his father was dead before he called police, during which time he changed clothes and thoroughly cleaned the barbell, Messenger said.

"If he hadn't admitted what he had used on the stand, we would never have known what the murder weapon was," she said. "He had gone to great lengths to remove all traces of evidence from the (barbell) if it avoided detection by our scientists."

Thirty-two years ago, White — also known as Algirdas Brazinkas — helped his father hijack a Soviet commercial jetliner to escape cold war-era Lithuania.

During the flight, Soviet KGB guards on board opened fire. A female steward was killed and the pilot and co-pilot were wounded. After the soldiers were subdued, the flight crew was still able to successfully fly the hijackers to Turkey.

There, the father and son were arrested, convicted of murder and sentenced in 1970 to prison. Four years later they were placed under house arrest.

When the Turkish government released the pair two years later they fled to Venezuela, where they hopped a flight to

Canada. But when the plane made a stop in New York, the pair disembarked and vanished from the airport.

Weeks later, Immigration and Naturalization officials caught the father and son, but allowed them to stay in the United States. After a few years in Queens, NY they moved to Santa Monica to live among the city's large Lithuanian community.

But Alex said the violence did not end there.

Neighbors testified Brazinkas would often threaten them with physical violence. One neighbor named Linda Flett filed a police report in 1991 alleging Brazinkas threatened to kill her and a carpet cleaner and once punched a gardener in the face.

Others testified that at one time Brazinkas, planned to blow-up the Lithuanian Church in Los Feliz using giant oxygen tanks.

In a video shown to the jury, White's mother, who lives in Lithuania, explains how Brazinkas hit her while she was pregnant, broke her arm and caused the still birth of their child. Other relatives said they had been attacked with knives and even irons when they argued with Brazinkas.

"I introduced all those things to show that when the gun was pointed at him he really thought his father was going to kill him," Alex said.

Messenger focused on Brazinkas' violent past as well, but she used it to show why White had a motive to kill his father and where the rage needed for such an action originated.

And she said evidence didn't support there had been an argument the day Brazinkas was killed. Neighbors testified they had not heard any unusual sounds coming from the pair's apartment that day.

"The defendant made a decision he no longer wanted to take care of his father and he wanted to live with his wife, but given the previous bones of contention over that issue, he didn't want to deal with the repercussions of a possible confrontation," Messenger said. "He killed his father so that he could finally be free of him."

Judge Ryan instructed the jury, which began deliberating Tuesday afternoon, that they could convict White of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, or voluntary or involuntary manslaughter.

If convicted of first-degree murder, White could face a maximum sentence of 26 years to life in prison.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

A northwest ground swell of some size is expected today. Surf should grow moderately during the morning before filling in to give the afternoon for an easy two-foot bump in height.

A swell builds towards Thursday's peak, we'll see surf in the shoulder and head-high range at west facing exposures.



Today's Tides:

High-	5:32 a.m.	3.79'
Low-	9:49 a.m.	3.26'
High-	3:05 p.m.	4.42'
Low-	10:49 p.m.	0.29'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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The Q-Line

With concerns about privacy intrusions and decreased property rates, a group of Santa Monica homeowners are pushing a ballot initiative that will allow homeowners to have the final say over the city's attempt to landmark their homes.

These homeowners have raised a significant amount of money to further their cause, but some people believe the entire matter is a non-issue and not a concern of most Santa Monicans.

So this week Q-Line wants to know: "Do you really care about whether or not a homeowner can voluntarily designate his or her home a landmark? Why or why not?"

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LOCAL

BLOOMFIELD, from page 1

appropriated according to budget, and that the books are balanced. The district has done an excellent job in this over the last few years and has a fiscal oversight committee that ensures this goal is met. Given the state budget cuts, the district can continue work to raise revenue to offset these cuts through putting the parcel tax measure on the ballot (Prop EE), seeking additional funding from the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu, continuing to apply for grants and create partnerships that bring additional resources to the district. They can also plan ahead for any cuts they might have to make should these revenue streams not materialize. I think one excellent component of Prop EE is that it includes stringent fiscal accountability for how all of this additional revenue will be spent.

2. If you had to choose, which extra curricular activities or sports programs would you eliminate because of budget constraints?

Many extra-curricular programs are already funded in part or in whole by parents. I would work hard to seek additional revenue through grants, partnerships or donations in order to avoid cuts to these programs that I believe help to support student achievement. I would prefer to focus cuts in areas that are as far removed from student achievement and activity as possible.

3. What is your position on separating Santa Monica High School into six smaller schools?

BROWNLEY, from page 1

at all times. We must be consistently researching and implementing fiscal and financial best practices in order to continually maximize the conditions for student success.

The board made an important and fiscally responsible decision in the spring to put a 12-year, \$300 parcel tax on the ballot this November, which is Measure EE. If the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu support Measure EE, it will yield approximately \$9 million on an annual basis to the district.

We must also continue to be vigilant in securing additional on-going resources from the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu, public and private grants that support our work, building a large enough endowment in SMM Education Foundation to sustain and expand our fine arts programming and other revenue generating partnerships.

2. If you had to choose, which extra curricular activities or sports programs would you eliminate because of budget constraints?

As a board member, I do not want to eliminate any of these programs due to budget constraints. The successful passage of Measure EE will not only ensure the sustainability of extracurricular activities and sports, but it will allow us to enhance and further enrich these programs.

If Measure EE fails, I would advocate for a similar parcel tax on the March ballot. Before completely dismantling our extracurricular or sports programs, I would have to reevaluate our moratorium of inter-district permits in order to bring in more revenue to the district to ease the budget constraints we would face.

I think it is an excellent idea. As a key member of the strategic planning design team, I heard complaints and concerns about the size of Santa Monica High School from a large cross-section of the community: students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators and community activists. In particular, students feel that there is too little connection with adults at the school. This is substantiated by a survey of the school that was done several years ago. Breaking up the school into six smaller schools should give teachers the opportunity to teach to and get to know a smaller number of students and provide more individualized attention and instruction. Breaking the high school into smaller schools may also provide an exciting opportunity to offer some alternative types of programs as well. For instance a real, substantial continuation of the Spanish language immersion academy experience, or a continuation of an alternative education after SMASH.

4. The Santa Monica Malibu school district has been accused of unfairly expelling and suspending students that are minorities. How would you address this issue if you were on the school board?

The issue that was raised in particular is a concern that disciplinary action has been different and typically harsher for students of color than for white students. As a board member I would want to see data collected on disciplinary measures taken for students at every school and monitor how schools are disciplining students to ensure that there is equity and no special favoritism. I

also believe that we need to provide more training, support and assistance for administrators in how to intervene appropriately and hopefully not have to rely so much on bringing in the police unless personal safety or criminal behavior is the issue. Finally, it's important to use suspensions and expulsion as a last resort. Often suspension results in students who are unsupervised at home during school hours being on the street and potentially getting into more trouble. We need to look at some alternative models elsewhere in the country and see if there are better solutions.

5. The district recently signed contracts with several fast food restaurants for thousands of dollars that will help fund various programs, including sports. Do you support fast food being served to students at the high school?

I think it is a shame that we have to rely so much on these types of arrangements to support programs like sports that are provided for by the school budget in other states and school districts outside of California. The real issue here is the substantial under-funding of schools in California (we are the 49th out of 50 in terms of student-teacher ratio and student-counselor ratio) and the need to raise money for key programs through all types of agreements. I would like to see the school serve healthy food, and students have a choice of healthy food.

6. Why should we vote for you? What skills and experience make you a better candidate than the others?

Ideally, no, but in reality as a sitting board member, I do. I would hope that funding essential programs for our students would not be dependent on products that are bad for the health and welfare of our students. I will continue to work towards win-win solutions to offer healthy, nutritional meals and snacks for our students at the high schools.

Our district is, far and away, the nutritional leader in the state. We have been recognized throughout the country for our partnership with the farmer's market and the salad bars at all of our elementary schools that provide fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables every day for our children. We further support our healthy food choices with our Health Champions program through a partnership with Saint John's Hospital.

The goal, of course, is when our students reach high school they will understand the benefits of good health and nutrition. Clearly, we need to do a better job of providing better nutritional choices for our high school students.

6. Why should we vote for you? What skills and experience make you a better candidate than the others?

I have experience and a proven record of commitment to our schools. I have enjoyed serving the school community and I pledge four more years of working hard for students, parents, and the community. I will continue to hold the highest aspirations for our students. I will continue to listen carefully and make policy decisions thoughtfully. I am committed to the most ambitious course of improvement possible for the district.

I am running for re-election because I am deeply committed to making our district a model school district in the state of

California and even the country. Our reputation will be one of closing the achievement gap, of beating the educational odds in California where privilege and poverty stand side by side, and of our belief that all children can and will achieve at extraordinarily high levels.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Emily Bloomfield.

Political affiliation: Democrat.

Profession: Administrator/Instructor.

Alternative career: A physician.

Favorite CD and movie: "Innervisions" by Stevie Wonder and "Cinema Paradiso." My favorite book: "Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

Favorite thing about living here: The diversity of the people.

Have you ever been arrested? No.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No.

Endorsed by: SMMCTA, SEIU, Santa Monica Democratic Club, Malibu Democratic Club, L.A. County Democratic Committee, National Womens Political Caucus, SMRR, Coalition to Protect the Living Wage, Hon. Fran Pavley, school board members Julia Brownley, Tom Pratt and Jose Escarce, and many other individual endorsements.

3. What is your position on separating Santa Monica High School into six smaller schools?

I support separating SAMOHI into smaller schools. A proposal will come to the board in February and I will wait to see staff's proposal before I comment on the exact number of schools. I look forward to the opportunity to support an implementation of a restructuring plan for Santa Monica High School that will maximize individualization and personalization for students and one that will maximize the conditions for extraordinary teaching and learning in all curricular and extracurricular areas.

4. The Santa Monica Malibu school district has been accused of unfairly expelling and suspending minority students. How would you address this issue if you were on the school board?

We have worked hard over the last three or four months to address this issue. We have approved a "bill of rights" for students and their families and implemented a unified procedure at each school site to ensure consistent compliance and uniformity at every school around issues of discipline. We have also created a parent handbook and have begun staff training and professional development. We will continue to investigate and implement discipline policies that emphasize prevention and mediation as opposed to punishment.

5. The district recently signed contracts with several fast food restaurants for thousands of dollars that will help fund various programs, including sports. Do you support fast food being served to students at the high school?

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Julia Brownley.

Political affiliation: Democrat.

Profession: Parent/school board member.

Alternative career: Philanthropist who gives enormous contributions and endowments to our local public schools.

Favorite CD and movie: "The White Album" by The Beatles. I love going to the movies. I have spent more time trying to decide my favorite movie than I have answering the questions above. The last movie I saw was "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and it was great!

Favorite thing about living here: The incredible beauty of the Santa Monica Bay and the small town feeling and sense of community.

Have you ever been arrested? No.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No.

Endorsed by: Assembly member Fran Pavley, Santa Monica Malibu Teachers Association, SEIU, Santa Monica Democratic Club, Malibu Democratic Club, Los Angeles Democratic Party, National Women's Political Caucus, SMRR, the Coalition to Protect the Living Wage, School Board Vice President Maria Leon-Vazquez, School board members Pam Brady, Jose Escarce, Mike Jordan, and Tom Pratt. Many other community leaders and parents in Santa Monica and Malibu.

WORD OF THE DAY: kakistocracy kak-uh-STAH-kruh-see (noun): Government by the worst people.

LOCAL



Local Sports

Samohi beats Peninsula for first time in 12 years

BY JESSE HALEY

Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica High hadn't beaten Peninsula High since they first faced each other in conference play in 1990.

Twelve years later, the Vikings mounted a remarkable fourth quarter comeback on Friday to win 27-20 on the Panthers' homefield.

"We won a CIF championship (and) beat Venice 3 years in a row," said Samohi coach Norm Lacey, listing his team's recent accomplishments. "Peninsula, we'd never beat."

In the first half it looked like Lacey might be right and Samohi would be in for

a 13th Peninsula victory. The Vikings ran a total of 9 plays in the first half, and came up with 9 yards rushing, 22 yards passing and no points.

"(Peninsula) played outstanding defense against the run," said Lacey. "In the first half, we got in a little trouble."

A roughing the punter penalty contributed to Samohi's trials, giving the Panthers a first and 10 and rejuvenating a 17-play drive that would end with Peninsula ahead 6-0.

Peninsula missed the point after, but recovered the onside kick. The possession would end with a touchdown and successful extra point to make it 13-0 at the half.

Whatever Lacey said to his squad in

the locker room must have rubbed off, because the Vikings came out strong in the third period. In its first possession, the team put together a 6-play drive, ending when Tyler Brunk caught a 36-yard touchdown pass from Ricky Johnson.

Samo missed the extra point, however, and the score was 13-6.

On its next possession, the Panthers answered with another touchdown after a 12-play drive to make the score 20-6.

The Panther defense took the field charged up, stuffing Samo on three straight plays to force the fourth down before a holding call on the punt gave the Vikings a first down and new life.

Unfortunately for the Vikings, a fumble by tailback Adrian Gonzales gave the ball back to the Panthers with two minutes to play in the third quarter.

So again, it appeared Peninsula was in control, until Abraham Badillo caused a Panther fumble, which Zeido Hamze recovered for a key turnover.

On the team's last offensive drive of the third quarter, Samo strung together 6 plays, culminating in Johnson's 16-yard touchdown run, bringing the Vikings within eight, 20-12.

During Samo's first series of the fourth, Lacey's decision to go to the air paid off with a 42-yard pass from Johnson to wide receiver Paul Helmy, which put the ball at the 30-yard line.

With 3 minutes left, Johnson got away from the defense on a quarterback sneak and found the endzone. On the next play,

Johnson found Helmy again for a two-point conversion to tie it up, 20-20.

Samo's defense stopped Peninsula's drive in their own territory, forcing a punt that left Samo with a first and 10 at their own 28 with one minute left on the clock.

The third and 10 play made the difference — a fake screen pass that sent Brunk deep for 74-yard touchdown reception, making it 27-20 Santa Monica.

The last minute saw two more interceptions, one off of Peninsula and one off of Samo, but the Vikings held on in the end to take home the victory.

For a team that relies primarily on the running of Gonzales, the Viking saw some uncharacteristically tailored passing in the win over the Panthers.

"Ricky's got a heck of an arm," said Lacey. "We've been snakebitten at certain times, dropping balls, but we're getting closer."

Gonzales rushed for 44 yards on 14 carries, while Helmy had 10 catches for 145 yards and no touchdowns.

Johnson completed 12 of 17 for 201 yards and 2 touchdowns. He also rushed for 20 yards.

The standout player in this game was Brunk. The senior receiver had 2 catches for 110 yards and two touchdowns.

"If these kids want to win a league title they have to win three," Lacey said. "If there not motivated to do that we'll be sitting at home in four weeks."

The Vikings, who are 1-1 in division play, face Hawthorne next week.

Santa Monica offers \$100 rebate for efficient washers

By Daily Press staff

The City of Santa Monica is now offering, while funds last, a \$100 rebate to residential water customers who purchase and install high-efficiency clothes washers.

The new, efficient models offer significant water and energy savings, averaging 40 percent less water use and 60 percent less energy use. Clothes washers that meet the Consortium for Energy Efficiency requirements qualify for the \$100 rebate. These washers save approximately 91,000 gallons of water over the lifetime of the appliance.

Since losing its local water supply because of MTBE contamination, the city has aggressively moved to reduce its need to purchase imported water from the Metropolitan Water District. MWD imports most of its water from northern

California's Bay-Delta and Colorado River, some of it traveling as far as 700 miles before it reaches the city. This impact is larger than ever with the greater LA region's record low rainfall of just 4.42 inches in the 2001-02 rainy season and the possible reduction of Colorado River water to the region.

The Santa Monica Environmental Task Force has asked the community to reduce its water usage 20 percent by 2010 to ensure safe and abundant water supplies for future generations.

To find out more, call the city's Bay Saver Program at (866) 728-3229, or visit www.santa-monica.org/environment.

Businesses and multi-family homes also may be eligible for rebates through a separate program for water-conserving fixtures, including a \$500 rebate for high efficiency clothes washers. To learn more, call (877) 728-2282.



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LETTERS

No on JJ manipulating voters

Editor:

I read your article on the living wage initiative (measure JJ) (SMDP, Oct. 26), aghast at the amount of money that the anti-living wage campaign is willing to spend (half a million this election so far and almost a million last election). Let me tell you what it is being spent on. In addition to mailers and several knocks on my door, my house in Sunset Park has also been bombarded with phone calls (four so far) by the anti-living wage campaign. According to the phone callers themselves, they are working for a company in Texas. From Texas, each caller has announced, that if JJ were implemented, hotels would be exempt from abiding with the ordinance, but charities would not be. I asked Vivian Rothstein, from the Yes on JJ campaign, if this was true and found that it was not. According to the fine details of the ordinance, if the union employees and employer mutually agreed that the benefits would be greater by waiving the living wage ordinance, only then could the hotels be exempt. Another fine detail in the hardship clause of this ordinance states that non-profit organizations (charities) are exempt from complying with the living wage ordinance. Thus, the anti-living wage canvassers are clearly resorting to blatant falsehoods in their desperation to prevent JJ from passing. By the way, let us examine, the original argument in itself, which is just plain silly. Suppose that the statement is true that the ordinance did actually exempt hotels from paying their employees a living wage, as the phone callers claim. We are then meant to oppose this ordinance because it would not cover these hotels. This appears to be an argument in favor of a living wage! Further, we are also led to believe in additional arguments that the same opponents of a living wage are also worried about discrimination! Regardless, the half-truths and blatant lies that have been directed against the living wage in past campaigns have not succeeded in manipulating Santa Monica residents, and they will not do so again.

Lori Klaidman
Santa Monica

Fix the 'broken and corrupt' system

Editor:

Barbara Inatsugu, opinion in the Daily Press, Oct. 28, states that: 1) government officials should be elected by a majority vote, and 2) elections should be held when there is the highest voter turnout. It is not clear whether Ms. Inatsugu is speaking for the impartial branch of the Santa Monica League or for the advocacy/partisan branch, but in either case supporters of Measure HH (VERITAS) agree with both points.

Most people are shocked to discover that the Santa Monica League of Women Voters actually consists of two very different branches, the Voter Information branch, which impartially evaluates issues, and the "Action and Advocacy" branch, which acts as an advocate/partisan player in local debates. Unfortunately, League members have not made clear to the voters which branch is speaking nor has the Santa Monica League addressed the central problem with Santa Monica municipal elections.

Here in progressive Santa Monica, we have an invidious distinction: No one on our city council has been elected by a majority vote in over 20 years! Sadly, during these two decades the Santa Monica League has provided no solution to reform Santa Monica's shamefully undemocratic election system. The California League of Women Voters, on the other hand, to its credit issued a formal position calling for election by a majority vote.

The American primary is the time-proven way to promote election by a majority vote. The primary election reduces a large number of candidates down to two candidates who then compete in the November general election. This system has worked well for 200 years throughout the U.S.A. Here in California, as well as in the rest of the nation, we use the primary system to choose our state and national office-holders.

Measure (HH) VERITAS will add Santa Monica's nonpartisan primary elections for the city council and the mayor to the California spring primary, the same day we go to the polls to elect our state, national, and county officials and to vote on important state and county ballot measures. It is very difficult, of course, to win a majority vote (50 percent +1) in the primary because usually there are a large number of candidates. In most cases, no one will receive a majority vote, hence, the two candidates receiving the highest votes will participate in the November run-off election. This means that the most important election, the run-off, will be held in the November general election when the largest number of voters go to the polls.

Another major advantage of the American primary system is that it provides sufficient time for voters to carefully study the candidates, to watch how they conduct themselves during the campaigns, and to determine their real agenda. This is a crucial informational process. We need time for voter to learn about the candidates and for community involvement.

Inatsugu also discussed costs. The city's cost will be minimal to implement a primary and district elections. Of utmost importance, Measure HH (VERITAS) will drastically reduce the candidate's cost to run for office. In today's very expensive city-wide elections, each candidate must reach 84,000 people, in HH's seven neighborhood districts, a candidate only needs to reach approximately 12,000 people. District elections

have worked well in cities similar in size to Santa Monica, including Berkeley, Pasadena, Redondo Beach, Watsonville, and others. In those cities, the cost to run for city council is a mere fraction of the cost to run for the Santa Monica City Council.

Let us be very clear: We believe that it is anti-democratic for ANY big money special interest group to dominate the election process, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM — big labor, big business or a home-grown big money political machine like SMRR. Today, independents who typically raise \$9,000 or less cannot compete against candidates who are backed by the big money SMRR political machine which spends \$250,000 on several professional, city-wide mailers, political consultants, and telephone "boiler rooms" which call to "ID" voters. In 20 years, only a handful of independent candidates have raised a war chest large enough, \$80,000 or more, needed to challenge the Leviathan political machine. In fact, the majority of independents can't afford even the \$18,000 cost for just one city-wide mailing.

If any big money group attempts to dominate Measure HH (VERITAS) district elections, it can be defeated by grass-roots "People Power." David can defeat Goliath big money campaigns. On their home turf, David (and Deborah!) have a huge advantage — they are already known to many of their neighbors who have met them at PTA groups, ball games, places of worship and other community events. An endorsement from someone you know is far more persuasive than a glossy slate mailer. Meeting the candidate at a neighborhood coffee or picnic is far more effective than a call from a "telephone boiler room." With a good pair of walking shoes, candidates and their supporters can walk their districts to personally meet the voters.

Today, in progressive Santa Monica the city council is dominated by entrenched politicians who stay on, and on, and on, and on. One career office holder is working on 14 consecutive years! Even the powerful governor of California and the president of the U.S. are limited to eight years in office. HH provides that after serving two consecutive four-year terms, the candidate must stand down for four years but after that, if the voters wish, a candidate may return to the same office. HH's progressive approach opens up the system to new blood and fresh ideas while also allowing good leaders to return to office. (For more details, see www.yesonveritas.org.)

The system is broken: In over two decades, no Santa Monica official has been elected by a majority vote, the election system has been closed to ordinary citizens, and our city council has been clogged with career office holders. It is no surprise that the entrenched politicians who have benefited from this corrupt system now fear Measure HH (VERITAS) reforms. Asking the entrenched politicians on the city council to reform the system which gives them almost unlimited power is like asking hungry foxes to design a security system for the chicken coop!

Paul DeSantis,
Yes On VERITAS Committee

No living wage will help this kitchen man

Editor:

The view from the kitchen is that Measure JJ is all washed up.

I hear so often about how the local politicians in Santa Monica want to help me and make my life better. If only they knew what they were talking about. I work in the tourism business in Santa Monica and I know what is best for me and for my co-workers. And Measure JJ is not the answer.

If Measure JJ passes my job will be in jeopardy. I believe that while well meaning, the truth is that with this measure my employer as well as others businesses and restaurants will be forced to cut costs to meet the new higher wage mandates that the city is forcing on them. It makes sense to pay someone a fair wage for a fair day's work, but it does not make sense to eliminate seasonal workers, entry level jobs and other opportunities based on a desire by one special interest group to control how things are done in our business.

I work in the kitchen of a local business, and I can say it really concerns me that if this measure passes, I will be faced with the prospect of workers with less skills and less time on the job being hired at a wage that took me hard work to get to. This can't be fair, this can't be.

I encourage all my fellow workers and the residents of Santa Monica to look very closely at this law before you vote. Please save my job and vote NO on Measure JJ.

Desi Szonntag
Executive chef, Le Merigot Hotel
Santa Monica

Police union needs to apologize

Editor:

This past weekend I received the Police Officers Association (POA) endorsement mailer with their list of self serving slate endorsements. Contained in the recommen-

See LETTERS, page 7

DID YOU KNOW?:

Grapes explode when you put them in the microwave.

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

dation to vote no on HH, the Veritas Initiative, was the statement "No Historic Districts." This is a blatant and calculated attempt to hijack a very strong sentiment on an entirely unrelated issue. As they well know, there is no referendum on historic districts in this election, and as they well know, Proposition HH is a city charter amendment that will introduce city neighborhood council districts, elect a mayor with a majority city-wide vote, and institute reasonable term limits on council seats.

Santa Monica voters, when they examine the POA motives, will discover that a POA endorsement has little to do with the ability of a council candidate to support law enforcement issues and everything having to do with a lock on salary and benefit negotiations. We have an excellent police force, perhaps the highest paid in the region, but we don't need strong arm political deception by our Police Officers Association and all the behind the scenes deals, endorsements and slanders that go with it. Clearly, the POA is afraid of the possibility of independently elected council members. The POA should immediately apologize and disavow this deception and mail this retraction to each household that received the deceptive endorsement. Will they do so? Santa Monica voters will have every reason to disregard their calculated endorsements if they don't.

Eric Parlee
Sunset Park

Where's the green in council candidate?

Editor:

Surprise, surprise, I received more campaign mail today. I really don't pay much attention to it since every responsible voter should research the candidates and propositions before voting. Needless to say, those campaign mailers always go directly into the mixed paper recycling container in my apartment.

But today, I received a very large mailer from Councilmember Kevin McKeown. It was by far the largest mailer I received today on 8.8" x 11" paper and was printed in five colors. Why does this matter? Because Councilmember McKeown is a member of the Green Party and espouses the need to manage our resources wisely. This mailer says "Proven Leadership for Santa Monica" on the front next to his picture.

But this mailer indicates the contrary. True leadership not only comes from talk, but example. This mailer, assuming one should have been sent at all, should have been smaller (1/4 of the size), used one color of ink (an earth-friendly ink), and printed on recycled paper (the mailer made no indication about the type of paper used so I must presume it was not printed on recycled paper). Had he used minimal resources for this mailer, he would have led by example. Unfortunately, he failed to do so.

Dan Kolhoff
Santa Monica

Anti-living wage mailer deceitful

Editor:

Santa Monica voters have received a political mailer opposing Measure JJ (the living wage ordinance) that is untrue and deceptive. While it is not our place to announce where any of us personally stand on this issue, we want to correct the misinformation so that residents can decide how to vote based on the truth.

The mailer pictured the Montana Avenue Branch Library, surrounded by wire fencing, with the headline, "Our libraries are already in trouble. Measure JJ would only hurt them more." The photograph is misleading because it implies that the library is in disrepair, closed, and therefore "in trouble." The Main Library and the three branches are not "already in trouble." On the contrary, a bond for \$25 million passed in 1998 by more than 80 percent of our voters, and is providing the funds to renovate the branch libraries and construct the expanded Main Library.

Both Montana and Fairview Branches are now closed for the already funded renovations and will open in December — new and improved for all patrons to enjoy. The Main Library expansion is on target and will be demolished in the next few months to be replaced by a state-of-the-art facility, paid for by the bond and funds provided by the City of Santa Monica.

The mailer claims that if Measure JJ passes, the libraries will be hurt more. This is not true. The bond funds are secure and the city's commitment to the library is unwavering. The opponents of JJ are trying to tie their cause to the library as a scare tactic.

H. Richard Horst and Ida Trives, former chairs of the Library Board who served in the 1980s and '90s, signed the mailer. It is unfortunate that they and Santa Monicans Fighting Against Irresponsible Regulation are misinformed. They do not seem to be aware of the current status of the libraries' construction. If they were, they would know that THE LIBRARIES ARE WELL FUNDED and will continue to be into the future. There is no danger of them being closed or not maintained properly.

We take offense when our libraries are misrepresented for political purposes.

Jon Arenberg
Sherrill Kushner, Esq.

Daily Press can't be trusted for truth

Editor:

It never ceases to amaze me how the Daily Press can slant a story, make false statements and leave out pertinent facts of a story. It also never ceases to amaze me how Bob Holbrook will manipulate the truth, lie to the public and violate the City Charter for his own political gain.

Your Oct. 25 article about the public safety unions' stance on Measure HH, "Controversial Mailer Has Both Sides Baffled," gets the facts wrong from the very first sentence. The article states: "Call it a scare tactic or an unintentional mistake, opponents of a hotly contested ballot measure are feeling the heat from police." The fact is that the police and fire unions ARE the opponents of Measure HH.

The second paragraph of your article continues: "A statement (in the police and fire letter) indicates that police and fire service could be 'comprised' (sic) if Measure HH is passed by voters on Nov. 5." This is completely untrue. There is no such statement in the mailer. There is absolutely no reference in the letter to the reduction of police or fire services, and in fact, nowhere in the body of the letter do the words "fire," "fire department," "firefighter," "fire services" or "compromised" even appear. Did anybody at the Daily Press even see the letter? These statements are completely fabricated by the Daily Press and Bob Holbrook and then falsely attributed to the letter from the police and fire unions.

I find it more than curious that the Daily Press did not mention that Councilmember Holbrook failed to receive the endorsement of the two public safety unions in his reelection bid this time and the real story is that Holbrook is clearly using this issue to get back at both the police and fire unions for failing to support him. This is purely political retribution against the unions from a vindictive politician who is used to having his way.

I also find it amazing that the Daily Press makes no mention of the scare tactic letter that Councilmember Bob Holbrook recently mailed to voters on official looking stationery which states that the Living Wage ballot measure (JJ), if passed, will put "police training and supplies in jeopardy." Talk about the "kettle calling the pot ..."

How is it possible that Councilmember Holbrook could state that it was inappropriate for the police and fire Unions to send out a letter about a ballot measure when he himself first sent out a letter that was in fact "threatening" and designed to "scare people" about the loss of public safety services?

When the Daily Press was asking the police chief about the accuracy of the unions' letter at the behest of Holbrook, why wasn't he also asked if Holbrook's letter about Measure JJ and statement's about police services were accurate and if the chief had any plans of cutting back on training as Holbrook's letter contended? Of course, the truth is that that JJ will have no negative effect on police services and Holbrook's contentions are false.

Further, there was no mention in the article that Holbrook violated the City Charter by contacting and giving direction to the police and fire chief to give quotes to the press that supports his view and that they put pressure on the union presidents.

And finally, how is it possible that only Councilmember Bob Holbrook, the only proponent on the city council of breaking up the city into competing districts, was quoted in the article? There are six councilmembers, including Herb Katz, who are opposed to measure HH and the article doesn't have one quote from any of them.

One thing is very clear after reading this "story." Neither the Daily Press or Bob Holbrook can be trusted to give the residents of Santa Monica the truth.

Kelly Olsen
Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com



LOCAL

COCHRAN, from page 1

campaigning for increased funding from private donors and of course fundraisers.

2. If you had to choose, which extracurricular activities or sports programs would you eliminate because of budget constraints?

It is very difficult to choose at this point what extracurricular activities or sports program to cut because all students connect with one or the other. One thing I would do and that is to see what the staff would bring forth as recommendations, and take a look at the total picture.

3. What is your position on separating Santa Monica High School into six smaller schools?

Separating Santa Monica High School into six smaller schools would definitely help with class size reduction and also it

would help with the achievement gap whereby our young people would be able to have that one on one help that they need to bring them up to standard — THAT PUSH FROM THE BOTTOM TO CLOSE THE GAP!

4. The Santa Monica Malibu school district has been accused of unfairly expelling and suspending minority students. How would you address this issue if you were on the school board?

In reviewing the board's position on expulsion and suspension of students because they set the governing policies, each school does have its own discipline practices and I would take a closer look at what they have instituted. If the policies they have put into practice do not seem fair I would have each principal take another look at their policies and hold them accountable to the parents. Compare date of suspension/expulsion of students of color from each school and if an over abundance meet with parents,

staff and students to work out solutions.

5. The district recently signed contracts with several fast food restaurants for thousands of dollars that will help fund various programs, including sports. Do you support fast food being served to students at the high school?

Given the fact that at Santa Monica High School our young people can go off campus and will buy fast food anyway but, I do support fast foods that are nutritionally sound. Schools do plan foods for enjoyment.

6. Why should we vote for you? What skills and experience make you a better candidate than the others?

I feel that all my experience as a volunteer at Santa Monica High School and my connection with parents/staff have uniquely prepared me to serve on the SMMUSD Board. I bring a deeply held passion for all students and I am a product of the Santa

Monica Malibu School District as well as my son. I also have been a Santa Monica resident for over 57 years.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Ann Cochran.

Political affiliation: Democrat.

Profession: Administrative assistant (retired). **Alternative career:** Elementary school teacher.

Favorite CD and movie: "Amazing Grace" by Aretha Franklin and "Preacher's Wife."

Favorite thing about living in Santa Monica? My church, the schools, close to the beach, and weather.

Have you ever been arrested? No.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No.

Endorsed by: My family, my pastor, Rev. Terry T. Tapley, the Pastor's of FAME Santa Monica (Rev. Ronald Williams), Greater Morning Star Baptist Church (Rev. Emmett Hinder) and Mt. Hermon Baptist Church (Rev. Edward Bell).

DE LA TORRE, from page 1

ensure that district officials manage the money responsibly. To begin with, the revenues raised from Measure EE can only be used for 11 specific purposes. In addition, the revenues will be deposited into a separate account and will be spent according to an expenditure plan that will have input from the Citizens' Financial Oversight Committee. I plan to offer accessible representation to parents, students, faculty and the community and inform key stakeholders of any major decision that impacts the quality of our educational program.

If Measure EE fails to receive the approval of voters, we need to creatively seek alternative funding sources. In 1998 I worked with other leaders to attain more city funding for violence prevention and after school programs for youth. As the founder of the Pico Youth & Family Center, I have experience in attaining funding through grants.

We need to create partnerships with local social service agencies and our colleges and universities to offer support to students and teachers without the need for new expenditures. For example, I worked to create a tutoring program at Santa Monica High School and at John Adams Middle School with very little financial support from the district. On the school board, I will continue to seek creative ways to support service-learning through strategic partnerships between our local schools, universities and businesses.

2. If you had to choose, which extra curricular activities or sports programs would you eliminate because of budget constraints?

Instead of cutting vital services and programs, I would challenge the community to find alternative funding sources. If Measure EE fails to pass, I would ensure that cuts are made as far away from the classroom as possible. I earned the endorsement of the Santa Monica Malibu Classroom Teachers Association because of my commitment to supporting the learning that occurs in the classroom.

3. What is your position on separating Santa Monica High School into six smaller schools?

The goal should be to reduce class size and increase parental involvement. If this can be accomplished by dividing Samohi into six smaller learning units, then I am in support of this. In addition, we need to compensate teachers so that they can develop their curriculum collaboratively. We need to increase communication within departments and between elementary, middle and high school educators. We need to close the achievement gap and raise standards for ALL students.

4. The Santa Monica Malibu school district has been accused of unfairly expelling and suspending students that are minorities. How would you address this issue if you were on the school board?

As the co-chair of the SMMUSD Task Force on Race and Discipline, I am proud of the work we accomplished this past summer. As a result of our work, parents will be involved in all major disciplinary procedures and they will be given thorough information regarding their rights and responsibilities. On the other hand, our schools are not immune from problems that

plague us as a society. My commitment is to create an institutional culture that teaches respect for difference, cultural awareness, and has HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS. More than teach a rigorous curriculum, we need to teach our students to be informed and ethical leaders.

5. The district recently signed contracts with several fast food restaurants for thousands of dollars that will help fund various programs, including sports. Do you support fast food being served to students at the high school?

We should attempt to provide our students with healthy snacks. According to the 2002 Fitgram Assessment, many children of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District fall short in meeting state standards in nutrition and physical fitness. We should be concerned with the findings of this assessment. The health of our children should be as or more important than their education. Currently we are implementing a pilot program to improve nutrition and fitness at Webster Elementary School, John Muir, SMASH and Lincoln Middle School. Some of the ideas to be implemented include: Decrease in unhealthy foods sold on campus, training for teachers on the negative effects of unhealthy food, fresh fruits and vegetables will be made available at all locations where foods are sold. I am in support of the reforms mentioned above.

6. Why should we vote for you? What skills and experience make you a better candidate than the others?

I am the only candidate that attended Santa Monica schools and worked with stu-

dents at Santa Monica High School. I have a masters degree in public administration. My research in graduate school focused on higher education policy. Currently, I am the founder and director of the Pico Youth & Family Center, where I provide counseling, tutoring, computer training and music training for youth in the community. The district needs effective leaders who have a close connection to our schools. I have a proven track record of leadership in advocating for our schools and students. As a visionary leader, I will work to make SMMUSD a model district for California and the nation by making higher education a priority and ensuring that the connection between families, schools and the community is seamless.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Oscar de la Torre.

Political affiliation: Democrat.

Profession: Youth Center Director.

Alternative career: A teacher.

Favorite CD and movie: Bob Marley's Greatest Hits and "When Harry Met Sally."

Favorite thing about living here: My family, the beach, the mountains, the people who struggle for social justice.

Have you ever been arrested? No.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No.

Endorsed by: Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association; Santa Monicans' for Renters Rights; Coalition to Protect the Living Wage, SEIU Local 660; Malibu Democratic Club, Santa Monica Mothers for Justice, Hon. Maria Leon Vazquez, SMMUSD Board of Education, Dr. Larry George, Dr. Michele Wittig, Neil Carrey, Hon. Pam Brady.

Santa Monica Daily Press

p r e s e n t s

"SQUIRM
NIGHT"

TONIGHT
7pm- 9pm

The event will begin promptly at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, located at 11th Street and Washington Avenue. The evening is free and open to the public. Parking is available on the east side of 11th Street, across from the church.

The event is fully sponsored by the Daily Press and the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica remains impartial to any party, points of view or group.

LOCAL



GOTTFRIED, from page 1

tee, of which I am the board's representative, has the authority to review all budgets and expenditures. They will play a key role in the expenditure of funds raised by the passage of Measure EE.

Further, the state requires that school district expenditures be audited every fiscal year. We have met the requirements set by the state in each of my 12 years on the school board.

2. If you had to choose, which extracurricular activities or sports programs would you eliminate because of budget constraints?

My guiding principles would be fairness and access. There would have to be a balance so that as many students as possible would be able to participate in extracurricular activities.

3. What is your position on separating Santa Monica High School into six smaller schools?

Santa Monica High School received a planning grant last year to study how "small learning communities" might be

implemented at the high school. I have supported and will continue to support the work being done on this issue. The exact number of these units, their structure etc. is yet to be determined.

4. The Santa Monica Malibu school district has been accused of unfairly expelling and suspending minority students. How would you address this issue if you were on the school board?

As a member of the school board, I supported the creation of the task force we established to review this issue and make recommendations for any changes in existing policies and procedures to assure that all students are treated fairly. At the school board meeting on Oct. 17, the task force presented their first progress report to the board and community.

5. The district recently signed contracts with several fast food restaurants for thousands of dollars that will help fund various programs, including sports. Do you support fast food being served to students at the high school?

I would prefer that only healthy foods be served on all of our campuses. We have

made great efforts in that area. We must be practical as well. Most students are able to leave the high school at lunchtime. Most of them choose to buy their lunches at fast food restaurants. Serving the food on campus serves more than just the purpose of raising funds. It also helps to keep students in a safer environment and gives us oversight of the food service.

6. Why should we vote for you? What skills and experience make you a better candidate than the others?

I have demonstrated the commitment, leadership and vision required to be an effective school board member. I was a teacher for over 17 years prior to my election to the school board. As a board member for the past 12 years, I have served as president and vice president of the board as well as having served on every board committee. As the board liaison to the strategic plan design team, I played a key role in the development of that plan. The strategic design plan will be our blueprint for the next several years. Currently I am the board liaison to the financial oversight committee and its representative on the fine arts committee. I also served on the child care task force of the city of Santa Monica.

Additionally, I have served on a number of community organizations including the executive board of the Community Corporation of Santa Monica, which is charged with the responsibility of providing affordable housing and the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women. Finally, my masters degree in urban education and my training as a mediator by the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service give me unique qualifications for service on the school board.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Brenda Gottfried.

Political Affiliation: Democrat.

Profession: Retired teacher.

Alternative Career: School board member.

Favorite CD & movie: Natalie Cole's "Ask a Woman Who Knows;" no particular movie.

Have you ever been arrested? No.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No.

Endorsed by: Assemblymember Fran Pavley, The Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association (SMMCTA), SEIU, Local 662 (Classified employees), The National Womens Political Caucus - Westside.

MCLLOUD, from page 1

to ensure that there is no waste in the school district's spending, and therefore I would support an audit of the district's services to ensure that we are providing services as cost effective as possible. I would also support utilizing volunteers to perform some services such as student supervision and some light maintenance.

As for increasing funding, SMMUSD should aggressively pursue private and business donations as well as enlisting sponsorships from our business community. We will have to aggressively pursue state, federal, and private grants, and we will also need to ask the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica to increase their contribution levels to our schools. Generally, we need to work with other school districts to lobby the state and federal government to place education as the highest priority.

I encourage voters to support Measure EE on the Nov. 5th ballot. The funds generated from the successful passage of this measure will help to alleviate immediate budget concerns in the district, as well as enhance our opportunity to improve the quality of education throughout the district for the next 12 years.

If we come to the point of having to cut some school programs, my perspective as a public school teacher for the past six years will be crucial during this process because I know first hand which school programs are critical to student learning.

2. If you had to choose, which extracurricular activities or sports programs would you eliminate because of budget constraints?

I oppose eliminating any school program with proven results of improving the quality of education in SMMUSD. It would be counterintuitive to the ultimate goals of the district of providing a challenging and enriching education to every student. Also, I would hope that the citizens of Santa Monica and Malibu would rally to find ways to fund those programs that enrich student development. If programs had to be eliminated, I would look to those that aren't related to the academic goals of the district and to those that don't have a strong enrollment.

3. What is your position on separating Santa Monica High School into six smaller schools?

As a school board member, my continual goal and challenge will be to provide the highest-quality learning environment for all students of SMMUSD. The size of Samohi makes it very difficult for the school to provide a high quality education for all 3,500 students. If we are to be serious about providing a high quality education, our classes should average 20 students from K-9, and 24 students from grades 10-12 (compared to the present average of 33 students after third grade). Too many students are not meeting academic standards, falling through the cracks, and aren't able to receive the support and individualized instruction that they need to be successful in school. Although I support present efforts to create smaller schools within Samohi, I will support exploring the creation of a second high school in Santa Monica if the present efforts don't drastically improve the quality of education within the school.

4. The Santa Monica Malibu school district has been accused of unfairly expelling and suspending minority students. How would you address this issue if you were on the school board?

Our job as educators is to teach all of our students that they have the ability to make choices in their lives and that with each choice comes a consequence. As a third grade teacher, I deal with the issue of discipline every day. We must always strive to treat each child fairly and ensure that they know what is expected from them in their academic and extracurricular work. Children perform better and can be judged fairly when they know the expectations in advance.

I believe that if the teachers and administrators in SMMUSD approach education in this way — where expectations are clear, treatment is consistent and unbiased, students know they can make choices and that those choices will have either positive or negative consequences — we will see fewer discipline problems and fewer accusations of unfair treatment. I also believe

the schools need to seek increased parent involvement when students are making choices that detract from their education. As parents are a child's first teacher, the schools need to utilize the partnership of teacher, parents, and community to better support the needs of the student.

I realize that many accusations have already been made. These accusations must be investigated with the greatest scrutiny. We cannot tolerate any unfair treatment by teachers, administration, or staff at our schools. I support the dedication and involvement of the Mothers for Justice who have brought this issue to the forefront of the school board and superintendent.

5. The district recently signed contracts with several fast food restaurants for thousands of dollars that will help fund various programs, including sports. Do you support fast food being served to students at the high school?

It's no secret that the profits that are generated from fast food sales are used to pay for extracurricular activities, athletics, and other educational programs. For many schools, this extra money makes those programs possible.

However, "fast foods" are typically high in fat, high in calories and low in nutritional value. We must consider the fact that the quality of adolescents' diet impacts their performance in school. Even moderate undernourishment can affect cognitive development and school performance.

With rates of adolescent obesity soaring out of control, the district needs to make responsible decisions on what foods it will make available for its students. Providing an overabundance of "fast food" options sabotage parents' and educators' efforts to teach healthy eating habits by providing readily access to unhealthy foods.

As a board member I would support finding ways to improve students' knowledge and attitudes about healthy eating practices, as well as "quick-food" options for students that do not sacrifice nutritional value. We must find a balance between filling our educational funding gaps and providing healthy food options, giving students options that will satisfy both our

funding needs and our desire to teach them the life skill of a healthy diet.

6. Why should we vote for you? What skills and experience make you a better candidate than the others?

I am the only active K-12 teacher running for school board, and there are no active K-12 teachers serving on the school board currently. I've been teaching third grade in South Central L.A. for the past 6 years. I believe this experience makes me more acutely aware of our district's challenges. I decided to run because I want to contribute my teaching experience to improve our schools. Our city's future depends on the success of our schools and I am passionate about working on policy issues that will help improve the education of thousands of students in Santa Monica and Malibu schools.

As the only active K-12 teacher running for the board, my decisions will always be based on what is best for the students. I will bring a unique perspective that is not currently represented, always keeping the best interests of Santa Monica's and Malibu's students at the forefront.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Shane McLoud.

Political affiliation: Democrat.

Profession: Public school teacher, Figueroa St. Elementary, LAUSD.

If you weren't what you are, what would you be? Staff member to an elected official where I could improve public policy (my previous job for 3 years).

Favorite CD and movie: "Us" by Peter Gabriel and "It's a Wonderful Life."

Favorite thing about living here: How our amazing SM mountains meet our pristine beaches.

Have you ever been arrested? No.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No.

Endorsed by: Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Los Angeles County Young Democrats, Mayor Pro Tem Ken Kearsley, Councilmembers Sharon Barovsky, Andy Stern, Joan House, Malibu Democratic Club, LAUSD Board President Caprice Young and School Board Member Genethia Hayes, and my school's principal and assistant principal.

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STATE

Ryder spends 31st birthday on trial

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
 AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — Actress Winona Ryder marked her 31st birthday Tuesday in the defendant's chair in a courtroom where she and jurors watched security videos of a Saks Fifth Avenue shopping expedition that led to theft charges.

The courtroom was silent except for brief commentary by Ken Evans, the security chief at the tony Beverly Hills department store who testified Monday that Ryder told him a director had told her to shoplift to prepare for a movie role.

Evans acted as a virtual tour guide for the jury as Ryder was seen moving from the store's Donna Karan boutique to the Gucci section, through the Chanel department and into the Yves Saint Laurent boutique.

Ryder is charged with felony grand theft, burglary and vandalism for allegedly stealing items totaling \$5,560 on Dec. 12, 2001. Ryder, who starred most recently in this year's "Mr. Deeds," faces up to three years in prison if convicted of the three counts.

At one point the video showed Ryder examining a white Gucci slip dress with a fringe hem. Evans told jurors it was priced at \$1,595 and pointed out how Ryder took the dress off its hanger, placed the hanger back on the rack and threw the dress over her arm.

As she moved through departments, Ryder wore on her head a black hat with a price tag. At some point, after she entered two dressing rooms to try on clothes, the hat wound up in a shopping bag and other items disappeared from view.

At the end of her shopping, Ryder was seen chatting with a sales clerk and then paying for a leather bomber jacket and two tops.

The prosecutor has said the three purchases totaled more than \$3,000.

At another point in the video, Ryder approached a sales person and obtained a Band-Aid and a cup of some drink with a straw, which she carried around the store. The sales clerk helped to bandage her finger, which was apparently cut.

Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle displayed a small pair of scissors and asked Evans if Saks sells such items. He said the store does not.

Rundle contends that Ryder brought the scissors with her and used them to remove sensor tags from merchandise.

She displayed to jurors a blouse with a huge hole at



Nick Ut/The Associated Press
Actress Winona Ryder, right, with her attorney Mark Geragos, arrives at court for the second day of her shoplifting trial Tuesday in Beverly Hills.

the bottom where a sensor tag allegedly was cut off. Evans also identified purses with holes in their linings.

Evans said that two days later he went through the Chanel department, searched the pockets of garments and found four sensor tags with material attached to three of them. The material matched items in Ryder's possession, he said.

Anticipating Evans' cross-examination and the defense theory of the case, Rundle had him describe special prestige programs which the store has for frequent shoppers.

Members of the "Fifth Avenue Club" are allowed to take items home and decide if they wish to keep them. The same applies to "studio services," which allows stylists from movie and TV productions to borrow clothes and later pay for them or return them.

Evans said Ryder was not a member of either group and if she really was borrowing things she would have had to sign a "borrow book" listing the items.

The video ended with Ryder leaving the store and being confronted by a security guard outside and two others who followed her out. They immediately took her shopping bags and led her back into the store. She appeared to be talking to them throughout.

Senate Insurance Committee looks into auto body insurance fraud

BY LOUISE CHU
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Insurance companies, currently fighting lawsuits that accuse them of defrauding consumers with shoddy auto parts, were challenged by the Senate Insurance Committee Monday to comply with California's own auto repair fraud investigation.

The state Bureau of Automotive Repair claims a number of insurance companies, including Allstate Insurance Co., Farmers Group Inc. and State Farm Insurance Cos., have failed to cooperate with its request for documents related to cases in which auto body repair shops have been found to engage in alleged insurance fraud.

Insurance Commissioner Harry Low reported that more than 80 percent of insurance companies have failed to comply with the requests. Many of those companies, led by State Farm, contend the agency doesn't have the authority to request those documents.

BAR, which operates under the state Department of Consumer

Affairs, registers and regulates about 34,000 California auto repair shops and also licenses smog check, lamp and brake inspection stations.

Its ongoing investigation is a product of its anti-fraud pilot program, established in January 2001, which provides California consumers free inspections of recent auto body repair work to determine if they were defrauded.

The investigation was further fueled last month when a California Highway Patrol sting operation resulted in the arrests of 35 people for preparing false estimates for insurance claims. Of the 62 auto repair shops targeted by the sting operation, 25 were found to be engaged in fraud activity.

BAR also reported in August that 42 percent of the vehicles inspected since the inception of the program were the subject of some type of fraud. The most common problem was billing for parts that were not actually replaced, according to the findings.

In 38 percent of those cases, the agency reported, the fraud involved a repair shop recommended by an

insurance company. In these "direct repair" programs, insurance companies contract auto body repair shops to provide services at discounted rates in exchange for the extra business.

"I want to know if this direct repair relationship has anything to do with the lack of insurer cooperation," said Speier, who wrote the bill creating the pilot program.

Representatives from Allstate and Farmers Group said their companies were committed to cooperating with the agency's fraud investigation.

"It is my understanding that we have been cooperating for years, and we continue to cooperate," said Delia Childgren, an attorney for Allstate. She added that Allstate even provided the cars used in CHP's sting operation.

But in a nine-page letter to BAR last Friday, State Farm maintained its right to not provide the documents because they were not directly related to the pilot program. State Farm's attorney Garrett Williams said Monday the company would continue to withhold the documents unless legislative action was taken to expand BAR's authority.

STATE



Don't tread on doctors who recommend medical pot

BY DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court ruled for the first time Tuesday that the government cannot revoke the prescription drug licenses of doctors who recommend marijuana to sick patients.

The court also ruled that the Justice Department may not investigate doctors merely for recommending marijuana, since this would interfere with the free-speech rights of doctors and patients.

"An integral component of the practice of medicine is the communication between doctor and a patient. Physicians must be able to speak frankly and openly to patients," Chief Circuit Judge Mary Schroeder said.

The unanimous opinion by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholds a 2-year-old court order that prohibited such federal action before any doctors' licenses were revoked.

Federal prosecutors argued that doctors who recommend marijuana use are interfering with the drug war and circumventing the government's judgment that the illegal drug has no medical benefit.

But the San Francisco-based court, noting that doctors are not allowed to dispense marijuana themselves, said physicians had a constitutional right to speak candidly with their patients about marijuana without fear of government sanctions.

Doctors who recommend marijuana in the eight states that have medical marijuana laws "will make it easier to obtain marijuana in violation of federal law," government attorney Michael Stern had said.

The Justice Department had no immediate comment.

The ruling does, in fact, preserve state medical marijuana laws by preventing the federal government from silencing doctors, said Graham Boyd, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney.

"If a doctor can't recommend it, then no patient can use it," he said. "This was the federal government's first line strategy, to shut down doctor recommendations."

In a concurring opinion, Judge Alex Kozinski wrote that there was a wealth of evidence that may support marijuana use for sick patients, and said the government attacked doctors as a means to paralyze California's medical marijuana laws.

"The federal government's policy deliberately undermines the state by incapacitating the mechanism the state has chosen for separating what is legal from what is illegal under state law," Kozinski wrote.

The case was brought by patients' rights groups and doctors who said they have been fearful of recommending marijuana, even if it's in a patient's best interest.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup blocked the Justice Department from revoking doctors' Drug Enforcement Administration licenses to dispense medication "merely because the doctor recommends medical marijuana to a patient based on a sincere medical judgment." Alsup's order also prevented federal agents "from initiating any investigation solely on that ground."

The case was an outgrowth of Proposition 215, which California voters approved in 1996. It allows patients to lawfully use marijuana with a doctor's recommendation.

Following California, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington adopted laws allowing the sick to use marijuana with a doctor's recommendation.

The Clinton administration said doctors who recommended marijuana would lose their federal licenses to prescribe medicine, could be excluded from Medicare and Medicaid programs, and could face criminal charges. The Bush administration continued Clinton's fight.

The government argued that doctors were aiding and abetting criminal activity for recommending marijuana because it's an illegal drug under federal narcotics laws.

But the appellate court said doctors could be liable only if they actually assisted patients in acquiring marijuana. Merely recommending the drug "does not translate into aiding and abetting, or conspiracy," Schroeder wrote.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court said clubs that sell marijuana to the sick with a doctor's recommendation are breaking federal drug laws.

Pot clubs continue to operate and dole out marijuana to those with a doctor recommendation, including several in San Francisco, as local authorities look the other way. Many cities and counties issue identification cards for sick patients with a doctor's note recommending marijuana.

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Man sentenced after being featured in documentary

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A Calaveras County man whose drug use was discussed in a television documentary has been ordered to serve community service and undergo drug counseling.

Scott Meyers was arrested and charged after he was seen on the HBO documentary, "Small Town Ecstasy," using the party drug around his children.

Meyers pleaded guilty to two felony counts of child endangerment earlier this year for using the drugs in front of and with his teenage children and their friends.

A Sacramento judge sentenced him Monday to 180 hours of community service and drug treatment.

"This is a video that will go with them the rest of their life — dad doing drugs," said Superior Court Judge Jane Ure of the HBO documentary.

Meyers could have faced six years in state prison.

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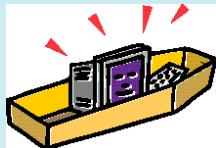
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NATIONAL

French Quarter residents applaud crackdown, cleanup

BY DOUG SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Child tap dancers, street mimes, panhandlers and con men — they have become fixtures in New Orleans' rollicking French Quarter. But now they are getting the bum's rush.

New Orleans is cracking down on street performers and minor crime in its most famous neighborhood, pleasing many of the roughly 4,000 people who live there.

They say the French Quarter's reputation as a playground of sin has gotten out of hand, overshadowing its fine restaurants and 19th-century architecture.

"Upscale and downscale co-exist here, and that's fine. That's the basic character of New Orleans," said Louis Sahuc, a gallery owner and French Quarter resident. "But sleaze and dirt and litter and hustling is not part of New Orleans. We're very permissive in a lot of ways, but permissiveness does not extend to outright abuse by people who want to rip you off."

Others wonder if the city is trying to sanitize the historic area into a Louisiana version of Disney World.

"Why would you come to New Orleans expecting a quiet, clean place?" said Arthur Walker, who reads tourists' palms on Jackson Square, in the center of the French Quarter. "New Orleans is New Orleans. It ain't Orlando."

The cleanup began over the summer, as police started arresting homeless people for obstructing sidewalks, drunkenness, public urination and other offenses. Children who tap dance for tips were cited for curfew violations.

"We had a host of citizen complaints. It's not something we just arbitrarily decided to go in and do," police spokesman Paul Accardo said.

A recent poll found that 70 percent of New Orleans residents "strongly support" the effort, and 18 percent "somewhat support it." Pollster Silas Lee, a political analyst, surveyed 300 registered voters Sept.

27-29; the poll was commissioned by neighborhood groups that support the cleanup.

Those polled also showed some concern about the cleanup. Twenty-one percent strongly agreed and 24 percent somewhat agreed that "restricting the activities of street people and vendors may cause the French Quarter to lose some of its character." Sixteen percent somewhat disagreed and 37 percent strongly disagreed.

Homeless people have filed complaints with police and the FBI. After the city removed benches from Jackson Square, protesters held a rally complaining the move was another attempt to force out the homeless, who often slept on the benches. City officials said the bolted-down benches were removed because they prevented fire trucks and ambulances from entering Jackson Square.

"It's not just about cleaning up the sidewalks and the parks. It's about cleansing the neighborhood of people who don't fit in: poor whites and working-class blacks," said Mike Howells, a Jackson Square palm reader who helped organize opposition to the cleanup. "If they don't work at a business here, many of the neighborhood real estate companies feel they shouldn't be here at all."

Business owners and residents complained that some of the child tap dancers used their performances as a cover for con games and theft. Police said some dancers were too aggressive.

"We had a surge of complaints against tap dancers browbeating people for money and getting verbally abusive with people who refuse to tip," Accardo said.

For 12 years, John Bryant has painted himself silver and performed as a mime for tips near Jackson Square. Recently, he said, police have ticketed him for begging or have ordered him out of the French Quarter.

"They're running everybody out of the Quarter, but we're entertainers. We don't hurt anybody," Bryant said.

Verizon settles lawsuit against prolific Internet spam maker

By The Associated Press

DETROIT — A commercial bulk e-mailer who critics consider one of the most prolific producers of "spam" agreed to change some procedures to settle a lawsuit filed by Verizon Internet Services.

The settlement announced Monday allows Alan M. Ralsky of West Bloomfield Township to stay in business, but restricts his distribution of unsolicited bulk e-mail advertising. The Detroit News reported.

Neither Ralsky nor Verizon would comment extensively on the settlement, citing confidentiality agreements. But Bobbi Henson, a spokeswoman for the Reston, Va.-based Verizon Internet, called it a significant case.

"People should see this and think twice about sending spam on our lines," Henson said.

The settlement permanently bars Ralsky and his company, Additional Benefits LLC, from sending bulk e-mail, derided as spam by critics, on any of

Verizon's networks, which reach 1.64 million customers in 40 states. Ralsky also must pay the corporation an undisclosed fine.

"Ralsky is one of the better-known spammers out there," said John Mozena of Grosse Pointe Woods, vice president of the Coalition Against Unsolicited Commercial E-Mail. "The bigger the spammer that falls, the happier we are."

But Ralsky said he will continue sending bulk e-mail. Verizon's suit, brought in U.S. District Court in Virginia, had sought to shut him down, seeking as much as \$37 million.

The lawsuit alleged Ralsky twice paralyzed its network in 2000 by sending millions of e-mails.

"It didn't happen," said Ralsky, 57. "I admit no liability ... and I don't know if any message has been sent at all" with the settlement.

Ralsky said he doesn't send offers for pornography or any messages to people who indicate they don't want them.

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NATIONAL



Analysts say Congress should set rules for online gambling

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Congressional inaction on Internet gambling is handcuffing the casino industry and favoring shady corners of international commerce, according to gambling industry analysts and attorneys.

"When you force legitimate businesses to the sidelines, it opens the world to people who operate in gray or black areas," Las Vegas lawyer and Internet casino analyst Tony Cabot told the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "The online gaming industry would be better off regulated than being banned."

Bear, Stearns Co. Inc. online gambling analyst Michael Tew said the U.S. Department of Justice prosecutes American citizens who operate online gambling sites, but won't go after foreign nationals who run illegal gambling sites.

In an Aug. 23 letter to Nevada Gaming Control Board Chairman Dennis Neilander, the head of the Justice Department's criminal division, Michael Chertoff, reaffirmed that online gambling is illegal under federal law.

However, several gambling sites operate outside the United States, and are promoted and available online to U.S. and Nevada residents.

Nevada regulators have been charged by state lawmakers with making sure Internet betting complies with federal law.

"No one is moving forward," Cabot said. "Therefore, all the business is going offshore to casinos, sports books and, to

an extent, race books."

A board member of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling told The Associated Press that for Congress to allow Internet gambling would be "irresponsible and abhorrent."

"Any Internet gambling is a frightening thing because it brings gambling right into the home, where there's no control," said David Robertson of Cody, Wyo.

Cabot said legal gambling companies have put Internet gambling opportunities on hold until they know what they can do legally.

Park Place Entertainment spokesman Robert Stewart said the world's biggest casino company isn't pursuing the idea.

Harrah's Entertainment spokesman David Strow said his company is taking a wait-and-see approach.

"We won't do anything that jeopardizes our current licenses," Strow said.

The U.S. House of Representatives started addressing the problem this session by passing the Internet Gambling Enforcement Act to prohibit the use of credit cards, checks and electronic fund transfers for online betting transactions.

However, the Senate failed to act on the measure before recessing last week.

Bear, Stearns estimates that there are 1,800 e-gambling Web sites worldwide, with 75 percent based in jurisdictions having little governmental regulation.

The industry — projected to make \$6 billion to \$10 billion a year by 2006 — is vulnerable to potential money laundering, criminal conduct and terrorist activity, Tew said.

Judge rules pork-checkoff program is unconstitutional

BY JAMES PRICHARD

Associated Press Writer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A federal judge declared as "unconstitutional and rotten" the U.S. Department of Agriculture's pork-checkoff program that forces farmers to pay fees to support national advertising.

The \$54 million program, which started in 1986, is best known for its promotion of pork as "the other white meat."

The ruling disappointed Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. She said in a statement issued Monday in Washington that such commodities programs are "effective tools for market enhancement."

However, Rhonda Perry, a hog farmer in Armstrong, Mo., and a representative of the plaintiff group Campaign for Family Farms, declared the ruling "a victory for family farm hog producers all across the country."

U.S. District Judge Richard A. Ensen in Kalamazoo ruled Friday against the National Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985, which spawned the program.

The promotion program is financed through a mandatory fee, called a "check-off," of 45 cents for every \$100 of a pig's value when it is sold.

The fees, collected from all U.S. hog farmers, also finance research and consumer information. Similar checkoff programs have been created for other farm products.

Ensen ordered collection of the fees

halted as of Nov. 24.

In 2000, then-Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman ordered a referendum on the program and hog farmers voted 15,951 to 14,396 to eliminate it.

The National Pork Producers Council, a Washington-based coalition, and Michigan Pork Producers and sued the USDA, challenging the referendum. In settling the lawsuit in February 2001, Veneman, who had succeeded Glickman when President Bush took office, said the checkoff program would continue.

That brought a new lawsuit from the Campaign for Family Farms, a coalition of groups representing small hog farms, challenging the settlement and the constitutionality of the program.

The family farm group's biggest complaint was that much of the money collected from checkoffs was spent to promote pork raised by large, corporate-owned operations.

The judge dismissed the portion of the countersuit challenging the settlement's legality, but his ruling Friday supported the family farm group's claim that the program violated First Amendment free speech and association rights.

The president of the National Pork Producers Council, Dave Roper, a pork producer from Kimberly, Idaho, said Monday his group would seek a stay of Ensen's ruling.

The USDA was consulting with the Department of Justice to determine its reaction.

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NATIONAL

Federal government brings its first charges in sniper case

BY STEPHEN MANNING

Associated Press Writer

GREENBELT, Md. — The federal government filed charges Tuesday against sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad under a 1946 extortion law that could bring the death penalty, accusing him of a murderous plot to get \$10 million.

Muhammad, 41, and John Lee Malvo, 17, are already charged with murder in Maryland and Virginia in the attacks that left 10 people dead and three others critically wounded. They are also charged with an Alabama slaying last month and are suspected in a February slaying in Washington state.

The federal case could take precedence, though Attorney General John Ashcroft said negotiations over where the two men will first stand trial are continuing.

Muhammad was charged under the Hobbs Act, a union corruption law that allows the government to seek a death sentence against killers who try to extort money or disrupt interstate commerce. The charge was based on a note, found at the scene of one of the shootings, demanding \$10 million.

"I believe the ultimate sanction ought to be available here," Ashcroft said, adding that the sniper slayings are "an atrocity."

Malvo was not charged in the 20-count criminal complaint, but he is identified as a John Doe in the supporting affidavit that describes some of the prosecution's evidence for the first time.

A judge must agree that Malvo can stand trial as an adult before he can be identified. The federal death penalty does not apply to juveniles, but Malvo could face the death penalty if he is convicted in Virginia or Alabama.

U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty of Virginia said it was undecided whether the government will move to the next step and obtain an indictment. But he said the complaint outlined "some of the grounds for a federal case."

The complaint names only seven victims — six killed in Montgomery County and a man gunned down in



Roberto Borea/The Associated Press

Two vehicles, believed to be carrying at least one of the two suspects in the sniper shootings case, leave the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Facility in Baltimore under heavy security Tuesday.

Washington, D.C.

A senior Justice Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Virginia cases were omitted because of that state's laws regarding double jeopardy — that is, being tried twice for the same crime. Federal charges covering those cases could be added later, the official said.

During an appearance in federal court here, Muhammad said, "Yes, sir," when asked if he understood the counts against him. Another hearing was set for Nov. 5.

Outside the courthouse, federal public defender Jim Wyda said Muhammad "stands accused of an incomprehensible crime, one that has had a profound impact on our community and has destroyed the lives of good people."

However, he said Muhammad has never been convicted of any other crimes, is innocent until proven guilty and has the right to a fair trial.

"What we're asking the public to do is respect that process. Mr. Muhammad needs it very badly," Wyda said. "This is a situation with so much emotion and so much passion, that it breeds the chance for errors, for mistakes."

Montgomery County prosecutor Douglas F. Gansler said government attorneys will have difficulty proving extortion was the motive for all the shootings.

"Most people have been operating under the idea (extortion) was an afterthought," he said.

The complaint charges Muhammad with affecting interstate commerce by extortion and threats of physical violence, interstate transportation in aid of racketeering, firing a gun near a school and other counts.

The accompanying affidavit details items found in a car that Muhammad and Malvo were sleeping in when they were arrested last week at a Maryland rest stop.

The items include a Bushmaster .223-caliber rifle police linked to most of the shootings and a glove stuck in a hole in the trunk. Authorities believe the sniper shot victims through the hole while lying in the trunk.

The glove matches one found at the scene of the Oct. 22 killing of a Maryland bus driver, according to the affidavit.

Also found was a Global Positioning System, a pair of two-way radios, a laptop computer and a wallet with several driver's licenses bearing Muhammad's photo but with different names.

The affidavit also confirmed that a tarot card with a note was found after the Oct. 7 shooting outside a school in Bowie. A second, longer note demanding \$10 million was found after an Oct. 19 shooting in Ashland, Va. A handwriting analysis found they probably were written by the same person, according to the affidavit.

The longer note directed authorities to pay the \$10 million into a credit card account or else "more persons, including children" would be killed, the affidavit says.

The credit card was stolen in Arizona in March and used a month later to pay for gasoline in Tacoma, Wash. — a former home of the two men and where police say the two are considered suspects in a Feb. 16 slaying.

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INTERNATIONAL



Afghan detainees tell of Guantanamo prison camp

BY TODD PITMAN
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — Recounting an odyssey that took them from Afghanistan to America's island prison in Cuba, three Afghan men just released from Guantanamo Bay said Tuesday they were confined and interrogated for long periods and denied contact with their families for the better part of a year.

But the men, the first to be released and speak openly of their time at Guantanamo, said they were not mistreated by their American guards and were allowed to practice their religion freely.

Two of the men appeared to be in their late 70s and professed innocence, while the third acknowledged fighting for the Taliban, but said he was forced into it.

The men were handed over to Afghan authorities after their arrival Sunday at Bagram Air Base, the U.S. military headquarters north of the Afghan capital. After spending Monday night in a military hospital, they were taken away Tuesday by Interior Ministry officials who debriefed them and said they would be allowed to go home Wednesday.

"They kept us in cages like animals," one of the men, 35-year-old Jan Mohammed, said of the chain-link open-air cell he says he spent months in at Guantanamo. "We were only allowed out twice per week, for half an hour."

Mohammed said shackles were put around the prisoners' feet when they were allowed to leave their cells — to either walk through a courtyard for exercise or for interrogation.

He said he was captured by Afghan soldiers loyal to warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum just after the northern city of Kunduz fell in November 2001.

Speaking from a hospital bed with Afghan guards standing by, Mohammed said Taliban soldiers conscripted him to fight at gunpoint.

"I wasn't Taliban, but the Taliban made me fight with them. I'm innocent. I'm a farmer," he said.

It was unclear what value the two other — much older — men could have offered the Americans.

One of them, Mohammed Hagi Fiz, a toothless and frail man with a bushy white beard, claimed to be 105 years old.

A plastic wristband, issued by American authorities, showed Fiz in the bright orange uniform he wore at Guantanamo and gave his approximate birth date as 1931 and weight as 123 pounds. Many Afghans are not aware of their exact ages.

Fiz said he was arrested by American forces eight months ago while being treated at a clinic in the central province of Uruzgan. Tied up and blindfolded, he was flown by helicopter to Kandahar and later by plane to Guantanamo.

"I don't know why the Americans arrested me. I told them I was innocent. I'm just an old man," he said.

The third prisoner, Mohammed Sadiq, walked with a cane and claimed to be 90. He said American forces arrested him at his house in the eastern province of Paktia and flew him to Kandahar, where he was kept for four months before being transferred to Guantanamo.

Each said they were questioned about a dozen times at Guantanamo.

"They interrogated us for hours at a time. They wanted to know, 'Where are

you from? Are you a member of the Taliban? Did you support the Taliban? Were your relatives Taliban? Did the Taliban give you weapons?'" Fiz said.

Interior Minister Taj Mohammed Wardak said Tuesday that the men would be given \$500 as compensation to divide among themselves, and the government would help them get home. Wardak said the government was not angered by the men's detention.

"Maybe it was a misunderstanding. ... We still don't know if they are guilty or innocent, but the U.S. released them, so we will release them tomorrow (Wednesday)," he said.

The detainees were the first to be transferred out of Guantanamo who have been allowed to tell their stories since the start of the U.S.-led war on terror. In May, an Afghan suffering from schizophrenia was sent home.

"There are still many of us left in that prison. They think they'll die there."

— MOHAMMED SAGHIR
Released prisoner

Besides the three Afghans, a 60-year-old Pakistani named Mohammed Saghir returned Sunday to Islamabad, where he was being questioned by Pakistani authorities. U.S. officials said the four were released because they no longer posed a threat.

The two elderly Afghans, looking gaunt and tired, said they had had no contact with their families during their incarceration.

"My family has no idea where I am, and I've not had any word from them," Fiz said. "I don't even know if they're still alive. All they know is that I went to a doctor for treatment, and disappeared."

Mohammed said he received a letter from his family just three days before his release.

Human rights groups have criticized the United States for its treatment of the prisoners, noting they were initially kept in outdoor cages and held indefinitely without access to lawyers.

U.S. officials say the prisoners have been moved to trailer-style quarters where they have a metal bed, a sink, and flush toilets. The prisoners were fed three times a day — meals of chicken, lamb and beef.

"They treated us well," Fiz said. "We had enough food to eat. We could pray and wash with water five times a day. We had the Quran and read it all the time."

Upon their release from Guantanamo, each man was given a blue bag, a running jacket, white socks, black shoes and long underwear.

The United States is holding about 625 men from at least 42 countries, calling them enemy combatants and saying it may legally detain them until the end of hostilities.

The remaining Afghan prisoners at Guantanamo are low-level Taliban fighters and mullahs, or religious leaders, Fiz said.

Mohammed said life in the prison was not pleasant, but he was thankful to be able to see the sun and stars through the mesh walls of his cell.

"There are still many of us left in that prison," Mohammed said. "They think they'll die there."



Associated Press photo

A group of Vietnamese are engulfed by smoke while trying to escape a fire at the Saigon International Trade Center in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, Vietnam on Tuesday. Officials and news reports said the fire at the six-story building killed at least 54 people and injured more than 100.

Building fire in Vietnam kills more than 50 people

BY RICHARD J. VOGEL
Associated Press Writer

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — A massive blaze tore through a large building in downtown Ho Chi Minh City on Tuesday, killing at least 54 people and injuring more than 100.

Firefighters battled the inferno for hours, but inadequate equipment and intense flames and heat kept them from reaching many victims trapped inside the Saigon International Trade Center, a six-story building that housed shops, offices and a popular disco.

A wedding reception with some 500 guests was being held in the building when the fire broke out, Ho Chi Minh City Television said, and an American insurance company with offices there was conducting a training seminar for about 100 employees.

At least one unidentified foreign man was among the fatalities and six staff members of the insurance company were missing, officials said.

"There are still no clear figures of dead, missing or injured, but the loss of life could be very big," state-run Vietnam Television said.

Firefighters used ladder trucks to help some people escape from the roof but they were unable to reach at least one man who cried for help from a window because they lacked the proper equipment. Flames raged at other windows.

"What is worrying is that firefighters were not equipped with the necessary equipment to put out the fire," Vietnam Television said. "It took them more than three hours to bring the water hose inside the building, and sometimes they did not have enough water."

Smoke lingered over the crowded neighborhood Tuesday evening and much of the building remained too hot to enter.

Firefighters sprayed water onto the sizzling debris, hoping temperatures would cool enough for them to go inside.

The American International Assurance Co. was conducting a training program for insurance agents when the fire began, said a company official who identified herself only as Tien. Six staff members were missing and about 30 were injured, some seriously, she said.

"There are still no clear figures of dead, missing or injured, but the loss of life could be very big."

— STATE-RUN VIETNAM TELEVISION

"A bell rang, and then the electricity cut off," Tien said. "The fire came very fast."

The official Vietnam News Agency said at least 54 people were dead. Hospital officials said more than 100 were hospitalized, many with serious injuries — some from burns and some from jumping out of the building's windows.

Police were still investigating the cause of the deadly blaze, but suspected an electrical short circuit, VNA said.

Police also said they suspected it started in the Blue Disco, the city's most popular dance spot.

Ho Chi Minh City, formerly named Saigon, is Vietnam's southern commercial center and largest city. Ho Chi Minh City Mayor Le Thanh Hai said the fire was the city's worst in both loss of life and property damage.



SPORTS

Angels fans celebrate World Series win at parades, rally

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER
Associated Press Writer

ANAHEIM — With Jackie Autry riding alongside Mickey Mouse, tens of thousands of Angels fans cheered the team's first World Series championship on at a Disneyland parade and later at a huge rally at Edison Field.

"For all the Angels fans who have been here from the beginning, and all the Angels we had above, this championship is for you," manager Mike Scioscia said at Tuesday's rally.

Two hours earlier, Scioscia held the World Series trophy aloft at Disneyland, which was awash in Angels red, with shirts, hats and faces painted with halos. Fans there had paid as much as \$45 for a ticket to the park, where the parade was held along Main Street.

Jackie Autry is the widow of Gene Autry, who formed the expansion team in 1961. The Walt Disney Co. bought the Angels after Gene Autry died in 1998.

The hard-luck team had never won a playoff series before beating the New York Yankees earlier this month in an American League division series. They then beat the Minnesota Twins to win the American League pennant and capped it off by winning the World Series over the San Francisco Giants in seven games.

A second parade began at Arrowhead Pond, home of the NHL's Mighty Ducks, and ended with a rally at Edison Field, home of the Angels.

"I waited 10 years for something like this," Angels veteran Tim Salmon told the screaming crowd. "But I know you guys have been waiting a lot longer. This is yours."

Added Angels relief pitcher Troy Percival: "We want to do this every year."

Anaheim police had no estimate of the crowd but said as many as 300,000 people were expected for the rally.

The parade and rally at Edison Field were free. However, fans had to pay an admission charge at Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure park. Disney has come under fire for charging fans who wanted to attend the events.

"Everyone is making fun of me, but I don't care. I missed school. I missed work. I missed everything to be here."

— KELLY BAAS
Angels fan

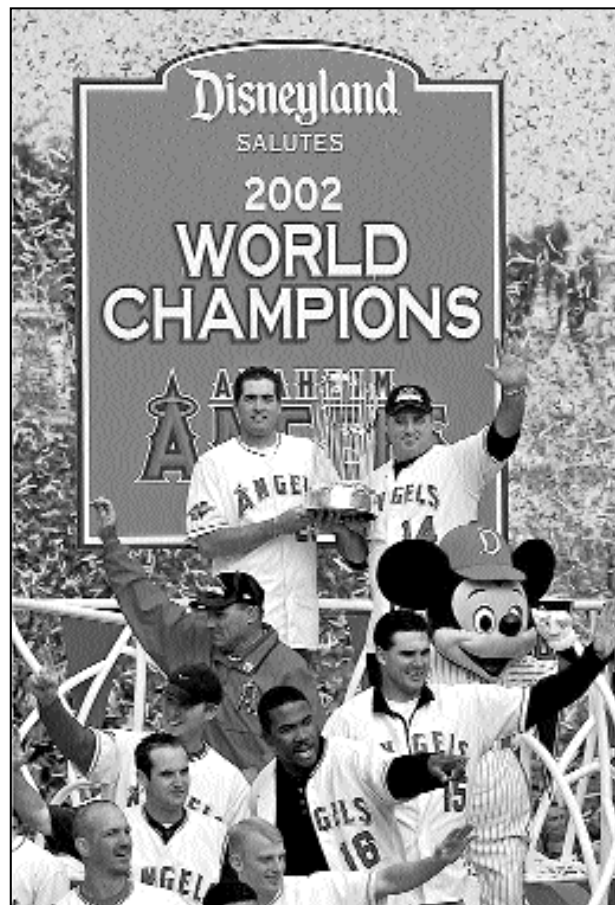
John McClintock, a spokesman for the Disneyland Resort, said there could have been severe overcrowding and other logistical problems if the parks had been opened free.

Linda Johnen said she went to Disneyland to see the players.

"I'm here for these wonderful guys called the Angels," she said. She held a pair of ThunderStix on which she had written, "They are the wind beneath my wings."

Kelly Baas, 18, arrived for the Edison Field rally wearing angel wings and a halo.

"Everyone is making fun of me, but I don't care," she said of the costume. "I missed school. I missed work. I missed everything to be here."



Kevork Djansezian/The Associated Press

Anaheim Angels manager Mike Scioscia, top right, and 2002 World Series Most Valuable Player Troy Glaus, top left, hold the championship trophy as they parade down main street at Disneyland in Anaheim on Tuesday.

UCLA's Toledo has choice of quarterbacks this week

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — There's not exactly a quarterback controversy brewing at UCLA, but coach Bob Toledo at least has a choice when he picks the starter to face Washington.

After losing No. 1 Cory Paus to a broken ankle and backup Drew Olson to a shoulder separation in a loss at California on Oct. 19, Toledo had only one real option in that game, and that didn't work well. Freshman John Sciarra completed just one of seven passes and threw an interception, lost a fumble and was sacked twice in that 17-12 defeat.

So last week, the UCLA coach called on Matt Moore, a true freshman who was going to redshirt this year.

Moore, who had never taken a snap in a college game, was solid if unspectacular against Stanford, completing 7-of-19 for 142 yards and a touchdown. Most importantly, he committed no turnovers.

As the Bruins (5-3, 2-2 Pac-10) prepare to meet the Huskies on Saturday, Olson is healing up, and he and Moore will be battling this week for the starting job.

"We're going to look at Drew Olson, see how he's throwing," Toledo said Monday. "He could have played against Stanford if he had to. He was throwing the ball better the past few days and hopefully with some rest, he'll be throwing it even better."

"Matt Moore is taking this thing very well. He knew he had to play and win the football game on Saturday, and he did his job."

Toledo said it would be late in the

week, even up to game time, before he announced the starter against the Huskies (4-4, 1-3).

"I'm sure they'll both play and will play in the future," he said. "They're both going to be outstanding quarterbacks."

While Moore showed impressive poise in his first college game, so did all the Bruins. Stanford capitalized on a fumbled punt and a bad snap to go up 15-0 just 4 1/2 minutes into the game.

"What impressed me was the way we stayed with it. We really got in a tough position early," Toledo said. "That's what's impressive about this team, its resolve."

The Bruins' offense, led by freshman

Tyler Ebell's 160 yards rushing, steadily chipped away at the deficit and he scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 18-yard run early in the fourth quarter.

"The main thing we did, and it was obvious watching our plan unfold, was that we didn't want to beat ourselves," said Toledo, who kept the offense simple for Moore. "We figured if we didn't beat ourselves, we could beat Stanford and that's exactly what happened."

After the Bruins fell behind early, UCLA's defense limited the Cardinal to a field goal the rest of the way.

The victory snapped the Bruins' two-game losing streak.

Ken Macha hired as new Athletics manager

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND — Ken Macha was promoted from bench coach to manager of the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday to replace Art Howe.

The A's didn't wait long to replace Howe, who officially was hired Monday as manager of the New York Mets. After interviewing for years, the 52-year-old Macha didn't have to leave to finally become a manager.

"I have knowledge of the players, knowledge of the system, knowledge of the front office, the whole thing," Macha said Monday night.

He interviewed with the Milwaukee Brewers and Chicago Cubs earlier this

month. He was Pittsburgh's second choice after Lloyd McClendon two years ago, and also interviewed with Cincinnati, Toronto and twice with Anaheim.

Macha and general manager Billy Beane have said they would like to keep the coaching staff intact. The A's won 103 games this season, tied with the New York Yankees for the most wins in the major leagues, then lost to Minnesota in the first round of the playoffs.

Macha had the inside track in Oakland from the moment Howe, the third-winningest manager in franchise history, left for the Mets for a \$9.4 million, four-year deal that the small-budget A's couldn't match.

Instead of landing in Milwaukee, which reportedly offered a job to Macha,

"That was a good win for us, good win for our program. We lost two tough games back to back, and that was like a nice injection that we needed," the coach said. "I'm so proud of our small group of seniors, they're the ones who keep this thing going. They lead by example."

Although Washington is only .500 this season, Toledo figures the Bruins have a tough game coming up in Seattle.

"They've got great fans, usually lead the league in attendance, and it will be their homecoming game," he said. "The elements always are a factor there, if not the rain, then the wind. But we've played well on the road and hope to continue."

or with the Cubs, Macha will take over a talented young team that beat out World Series champion Anaheim for the AL West title but lost its third straight division series.

Macha spent four years as a manager in the Boston organization before joining the A's as a bench coach before the 1999 season. He just completed his 13th season on a major league coaching staff. That includes stints with Montreal and California. He was the Eastern League manager of the year in 1996 with Double-A Trenton, and led Triple-A Pawtucket to two winning seasons.

He spent parts of six seasons playing in the majors, batting .258 with 98 hits, one home run and 35 RBIs. He also spent four years as a player in Japan.

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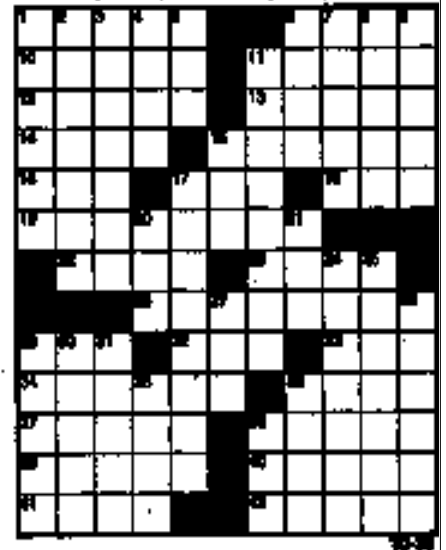
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Pols to prove emotional fitness

Jorge Capitanich recently introduced a bill in the Argentine legislature to help restore voters' faith in elected officials to pull the country out of its long and severe economic crisis. (It is a common street scene in Buenos Aires that politicians, once they are identified by passersby, are targets of insults and spitting.) If the bill passes, all congressional and presidential candidates would be required not only to prove they have paid their taxes and to disclose any criminal records but also to submit to psychiatric exams to assure voters that they are emotionally fit to hold office.



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W. LA \$1450.00 2bd/1ba, new carpet and vertical blinds. Large kitchen. (310)391-8880.

Houses For Rent

MAR VISTA, 2 Bed, 2 Bath, split floor plan with 2 fireplaces, new carpet and paint, 2 car gated parking. 1 Year lease, no pets \$1,350. (310)396-4443. x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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MDR ADJACENT, 2 + 2, fireplace, dishwasher, stove, large private patio, new paint and carpet in newer gated building with gated, subterranean parking, A/C, quiet neighborhood, laundry room, 1 year lease, no pets. \$1,495. (310)578-9729

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SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Guest House, r/s, w/d, yard, very quiet, prkng, utils incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA House w/yard. \$2000.00 Completely renovated, Pergo flooring, large kitchen, old fashion bathroom. Close to beach and shopping, next to new park. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

Roommates

S.M. SHARE 2bdm furnished apt., all utilities paid including cable. 9th & Wilshire. Male only. \$750.00 (310)394-1050.

SANTA MONICA \$525.00 House, prvt rm, r/s, hrwd flrs, must see, w/d, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$500.00 Apartment, prvt room, r/s, hrwd flrs, Indry, prkng, utils incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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OFFICE SPACE, 6 offices+ 2 bathrooms +kitchenette +reception. 1,250 SF. Year sublet +renewal option. Prime local Yale @ Colorado (SM) incl. parking. Lease negotiable. Contact Tom @ (310)612-0840.

OFFICE SUBLEASE, 1 office available, seconds to 10 and 405. \$625/month, avail. immediately, (310)392-6100.

OSTEOPATH SEEK non-drug practitioners. Reasonable day rates. Beautiful and friendly office. Contact Robin at (310)664-8818.

PRIME STORE front property for medical and/or retail, in downtown Santa Monica for sublease below market value. 2400 sq. ft. Call Linda (310)393-2598.

VENICE BEACH \$1695.00 Office space with 4 parking spaces, one large room with high ceilings, skylights, rollup door, bathroom with shower. 1 year lease (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$595.00 Small office space with bathroom on ground floor. High ceiling, large window. Fresh paint. Just off Abbot Kinney, 1 year lease. (310) 396-4443 x102

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Massage

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue. energy balancing, non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$45.00/hr. In/out. Lyndia, L.M.T. (310)749-0621

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SWEDISH MASSAGE. The lovely Dessarae. 27-year old beauty. 45/min \$100.00 for info (310)319-1361. Appointment only call (213)308-9711.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Swedish, Acupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Massage

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Swedish, Deep-Tissue, Sports Massage. Intro: \$29/hour. (CMT) Vlado (310) 397-7855

WOULD LIKE to trade deep-tissue and Swedish bodywork with female therapist. Platonic. Paul (310)741-1901.

Announcements

PRO SE of Neighborhood Project needs volunteers for events that honor our heroes. (310) 899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net.

VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

YOU ARE invited to celebrate with the Santa Monica Church of the Nazarene their 75th Anniversary in this community. It will feature a gospel music concert with the Revised Standard Version Quartet on Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:00p.m. Santa Monica Church of the Nazarene, 1001 18th St, Santa Monica. (2 blocks north of Wilshire Blvd.) Ph. (310)453-4445 Public is welcome.

Services

BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS of your wedding, pregnancy and family. www.belindawaymouthphotography.com

CALIFORNIA ENGLISH Teacher Specialist - Tutoring all aspects of English. Call or fax name and phone number to (310)393-8778.

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HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

NEED TAX and bookkeeping service? For small businesses. Payroll services, bank reconciliations, financial statements. (310)230-8826.

OVERPRICED DIAL-UP? Use VisionOne. \$16.95 monthly, fast clean connection, no long term contracts, 24/7 customer service. Visit www.visionone.com/icingonthecake or call (310)820-4152.

Computer Services

COMPUTER HELP: Your home or office. Tutoring Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet navigation. Please call (310)207-3366.

Business Opps

YOU: Ambitious, goal-oriented, workaholic who wants to make serious long-term income in telecommunications. Call Jamie (310)820-4152.

Health/Beauty

EXPERIENCED MAKE-UP ARTIST! Weddings & Special Events. Local references available. (310)702-8778 / (323)559-9033. Nina & Alex.

RECEPTIONIST/HAIRSTYLIST NEEDED in hair salon, ASAP. Contact Martin at (310)260-0123.

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CLASSIFIEDS



Be in the middle of it all!

Professional office space available on the Third Street Promenade.



950 square feet of office space conveniently located downtown, a walk away from shops, restaurants and the beach. Bright office space with high ceilings, natural light, two large private offices and a spacious reception area. Quiet location with a shared kitchen. New paint and carpet. Parking. Available now.

Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

Calendar

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

Today

Community

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

FINAL EVENT in the Steinbeck series at the Santa Monica Public Library Auditorium, 1343 6th Street on Wednesday, beginning at 6 pm with a film screening and discussion by local scholars. 6-8:15pm. The film is *EL NORTE*, a powerful Academy Award nominated drama which follows the flight of two Guatemalan teenagers from repression and war to refuge sought in America. 8:15-9pm Discussion will be lead by facilitators, Salvador Fernandez from UCLA and Richard Rodriguez from Cal. State L. A. For additional information, please call 310/458-8600.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in

Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Entertainment

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com

Save the Aero! the Aero will be having a Halloween Party and showing the movie "Ghostbusters". Doors will

open at 6pm for arts and crafts for the children. Movie starts at 7pm, tickets are \$10, 1328 Montana Ave. (310)395-4990. www.aertheatre.com

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted by Tony Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056.

Thursday

Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

Come practice at SUNSET YOGA, overlooking the Pacific! "Integral Hatha Yoga" every Thursday from 7:15-9pm. Mixed levels. Donations only. Please bring a mat and towel.

Located at 1450 Ocean Ave. between Santa Monica Blvd. and Broadway. For more information contact skinny-buddahboy@hotmail.com

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 - 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santamonivcakksg.org

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:00, 1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 4:30, 5:30, 6:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:00. The Truth About Charlie (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. The Tuxedo (PG-13) 11:00, 1:30, 9:15.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05. Punch-Drunk Love (R) 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45. The Transporter (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00. Tuck Everlasting (PG) 2:15, 4:45, 7:30. White Oleander (PG-13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 9:55. Abandon (PG-13) 1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30. Brown Sugar (PG-13) 2:25, 9:40. Formula 51 (R) 5:00, 7:45, 10:00.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Auto Focus (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20. Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45. Secretary (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50. Spirited Away (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
Addams Family Values 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.



BACK PAGE



Bloomberg tops richest politicians list

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is the richest American politician with a net worth of \$4.8 billion, according to a new list by Forbes magazine.

Arkansas Lt. Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller is the second wealthiest politician, with \$1.2 billion. New York gubernatorial candidate B. Thomas Golisano trailed close behind with \$1.1 billion.

The list of America's richest politicians was posted Tuesday on Forbes.com, the business magazine's Web site.

It never hurts to have money — and lots of it — when running for office.

Bloomberg spent about \$73 million in 2001 to win the mayor's seat, previously occupied by Rudolph Giuliani. He set the record for the most expensive non-presidential race in history.

Four of the 10 wealthiest politicians were also among Forbes' 400 wealthiest Americans, announced in September.

To be considered, people had to be currently holding elective office or running in next week's election.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., was the wealthiest congressional member with a net worth of \$550 million. He ranked fourth on the list.

Other members of Congress who were among the top 10 wealthiest politicians are Rep. Amo Houghton, R-N.Y., with \$475 million; Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., with \$300

million; Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., with \$250 million; and Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., with \$200 million.

Five of the top 10 are Democrats, four are Republicans and one is an Independent.

'D-wifed' firefighter wins prize

By The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Divorce isn't a funny thing, but firefighter Larry VanHooser turned it into a gag — at least when it came to his license plate.

VanHooser won \$5,000 for coming up with his vanity plate "D-WIFED," beating out the likes of "CYIM-BRK" (See why I am broke) and "MANOPOZ" (male menopause). The results of the nationwide contest, sponsored by car-care products maker Eagle One, were announced on Monday.

VanHooser said he got the idea for the plate as he was driving around in the 1999 Chevrolet Corvette he purchased after his divorce, his third.

"It crossed my mind, and I said that's the one," he said. "It cost me \$25 and the divorce cost me \$100,000."

The 54-year-old VanHooser, who plans to retire soon, said he will give some of the prize money to his two sons, also firefighters, and some to charity.

The contest was judged by the writers of NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." Eagle One said more than 2,500 entries were submitted from all 50 states.

Sharp objects can be sent home

By The Associated Press

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. — If you've forgotten to remove sharp objects from your hand luggage at Bradley International Airport, don't despair.

The Transportation Security Administration, the U.S. Postal Service and the company that runs gift stores in both terminals at Bradley have teamed up to let travelers keep banned items and still make their flights.

How? By using the mail.

Passengers can pay \$5 for a box with an address label and \$3.85 for a stamp to have sharp objects like corkscrews and scissors weighing up to one pound mailed home.

Passengers also can receive a receipt allowing them to return to the head of the security line if they've been pulled aside after agents uncover the sharp objects.

The mailing boxes are available at any of the Paradies Shops at Bradley. About 250 people have taken advantage of the program in its first week, Paradies manager Debra Ostrov said.

"These items may be antiques or just family mementos, and it just kills people to have to part with them," she said Monday.

Couple weds in haunted house

By The Associated Press

JANESVILLE, Wis. — The maid of honor was a witch. The best man wore a death mask. The happy couple looked a little scary.

Tom Sletten and Traci Dunn decided to get married Sunday in a ghoulish ceremony at the Jaycees Haunted House, where both have donated their time creeping out visitors.

Rock County Court Commissioner James Van De Bogart, who married the couple in a jack-o'-lantern-covered vest, said the ceremony was standard, including the "until death do you part."

The "scary" wedding was the bride's idea, said Cindy Clayton, the maid of honor and Jaycees' president.

"I thought it was a little bit crazy, but he said sure, and she kind of put the whole thing together," Clayton said. "Even though they were in makeup, I could tell by their expressions that at times they were a little choked up."

Bride and groom are both Jaycees members, and Clayton has been one of the "monsters in the maze" at the haunted house for a number of years, she said.

Santa Monica Daily Press
presents

"SQUIRM NIGHT"

Come watch the nine city council candidates squirm as they field pointed questions about their campaign platforms from members of the press and public.

TONIGHT!
OCTOBER 30
7-9PM

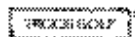
The event will begin promptly at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, located at 11th Street and Washington Avenue. The evening is free and open to the public. Parking is available on the east side of 11th Street, across from the church.

The event is fully sponsored by the Daily Press and the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica remains impartial to any party, points of view or group.

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